

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
DOROTHY L. HUKILL CITY CENTER ANNEX
CONFERENCE ROOM
1395 DUNLAWTON AVENUE
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA
APRIL 21, 2026

THE REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING of the City of Port Orange was called to order by Chairman Bobby Ball at 5:15 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call	Present:	John Cameron, Jr., Vice Chair Robert Ball, Chair Maria Mills-Benat Shawn Holmes (5:24pm) Brian Syford
	Absent:	Jeff Brabham (Unexcused)
	Also Present:	Jennifer Sisk, Athletics Manager Christine Clowes, Sr. Administrative Assistant

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Motion to nominate Member John Cameron Jr. for Vice Chair was made by Member Maria Mills-Benat and seconded by Member Bryan Syford.

Member John Cameron Jr. accepted the nomination.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

2. Consideration of Minutes: January 20, 2026

Motion to approve the January 20, 2026 meeting minutes as presented was made by Member Maria Mills-Benat and seconded by Vice Chair John Cameron, Jr. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. Bond Update

Jennifer Sisk, Athletic Manager, informed the board that the City Center expansion is now out to bid, with an opening scheduled for May 15. The project team is aiming to break ground in July and have the two soccer fields operational soon after. Willow Run Park's bid timeline has been pushed to July as Echo grant applications are being pursued. An intent to award W.J. Architects for the design of the REC West project is out and set to go before City Council on May 5. White Place Park remains in the design phase.

Additional updates included the Gamble Place agreement, which has not yet been finalized, and the 9-hole disc golf course at Buschman Park, which is already seeing informal use and is expected to officially open in a few weeks.

Regarding land and development updates, Vice Chair, John Camron, Jr., inquired about the Coraci land purchase, which Ms. Sisk reported that while progress is slow, there are no issues with the transaction and once the acquisition is complete, fields will be installed using the bond funding. The Board also discussed potential land swaps or purchases involving schools.

Finally, Ms. Sisk reported to the Board that the proposed renaming of the Lakeside Community Center to the Allen Green Center will go before the City Council on May 5. Following the meeting, a 30-day public comment period will be held before the item returns to City Council for final resolution.

4. Budget Update

Ms. Sisk reported that the initial budget has been submitted to Finance requesting a 2% increase across the board, which is currently under discussion. Susan Lovallo, Parks & Recreation Director, will meet with the Finance Department to review details, and is expected to provide a more complete update at the next meeting.

Vice Chair, John Cameron Jr., asked how the additional funds would be allocated. Ms. Sisk responded that Ms. Lovallo will outline this in detail at the next meeting, noting that some funds are expected to support operations and maintenance.

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Sisk reported that while youth baseball is wrapping up, youth basketball has filled faster than ever, with 440 participants using three courts Monday through Saturday, and waitlists in every league. The addition of Rec West is expected to help relieve demand for both basketball and volleyball.

Adult Flag Football is beginning and will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Opening Day for the 2027 baseball season is scheduled for March 6, 2027.

The Little Oranges program is concluding, and the Recreational Special Needs (RSN) program will begin in May as a three-week session. Upcoming special events include the Mayor's Golf Tournament on June 20, and the ongoing America 250 celebrations. The "Stars and Strides" walking contest is currently underway, encouraging participants to walk 13, 50, or 250 miles between March and July 4, in recognition of the nation's history.

Ms. Sisk stated that the department is fully staffed and prepared to support upcoming expansions and new programs once current projects are complete.

Chair, Robert Ball, asked how the Parks and Recreation department ensures basketball programs prioritize Port Orange residents. Ms. Sisk responded that approximately 90% of participants are Port Orange residents. If participation from other cities becomes an issue, the department will consider opening registration to Port Orange residents first.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was none.

BOARD COMMENTS

Vice Chair, Cameron, Jr., inquired about the Christmas parade and concert being held on the same day. Ms. Sisk explained that hosting the parade in the City Center is not logistically feasible.

ADJOURNMENT - 5:43pm

5. Next Meeting Date: July 21, 2026
6. Board Report to City Council: April 21, 2026



Chairman Bobby Ball